|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Banks County Established 1858 Seal | **Banks County Board of Commissioners Public Information Meeting** |
| Courthouse Annex Boardroom | 150 Hudson Ridge | Homer, GA 30547 |
| Thursday, May 01, 2025 at 6:30 PM |
| **Minutes** |

**1.** **CALL TO ORDER**

Ch. Griffith called the meeting to order.

PRESENT
Chairman Taylor Griffith
Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell
Commissioner Chris Ausburn
Commissioner Bo Garrison

STAFF PRESENT

Deputy County Clerk Erin Decker

**2.** **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Ausburn, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 4:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**3.** **PUBLIC FORUM**

**a. NRCS - American Farmland Trust - RC&D**

***Wade Mize- District Conservationist with Natural Resource Soil Conservation Service (NRCS)*** - Discussed several programs they offered that were environmentally friendly that would help farmers.

***Greg Pittman - UGA Extension Service*** - Discussed testing of soil sampling and hay production.  He stated they also specialized in pasture weed management and control.

***Joshua Lyon - Banks County Extension Agent*** - Discussed what the local Banks County Extension Service could help with.  He stated his background was in Fungal Disease.

***Mallary O'Steen - Southland Senior Program Manager - American Farmland Trust*** - Stated the mission of American Farmland Trust was to save the land that sustains us by protecting farmland, promoting sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land.  She further discussed the program and ways it could preserve farmland.

***Joe Barbaree - Director of Land Conservation - Athens Land Trust*** - Stated their goal was to protect and improve working land and natural habitat across Georgia.  He discussed the benefits and lasting efforts of a Conservation Easement and the effect that it would have on farmland in the future.

**4.** **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment

**5.** **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM.

Motion made by Commissioner Garrison.

Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 4:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

 Chairman

Deputy County Clerk